[Translation]

Development Schemes In Tribal and Forest Areas

*373. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the enforcement of Forest Conservation Act, 1980, many schemes including construction of roads in the tribal and forest areas of the country, particularly in Maharashtra have come to stand still;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide any special concessions to commence the works under these Government schemes so as to give benefits to the people;

(c) if so,the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Question does not arise.

[English]

Coconut Oil Production

*374. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coconut oil production in the country is sufficient for the internal consumption;

(b) whether there is any authentic report with the Government that the coconut oil contains cholesterol;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct a wide propaganda in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no authentic report that coconut oil is responsible for increasing serum cholesterol.

(c) and (d). The Coconut Development Board conducted large scale propaganda to counter the misconception that coconut oil is responsible for increasing serum cholesterol, through National Workshop on Coconut Oil in January, 1994; National Symposium on Coconut Oil in Human Nutrition in March, 1994; series of district level seminars in Kerala in association with KERAFED during 1995; seminars on nutritive value of health friendly coconut oil; advertisements in print media for promotion of coconut oil as healty dietary fat; and publications highlighting beneficial role of coconut oil in human nutrition. As a result of this campaign, the consumption of coconut oil in Kerala increased from 50,000 tonnes in 1994 to 1.50 lakh tonnes in 1996.

[Translation]

Supply Under P.D.S.

*375. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH
SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand received from each State Government for supply of wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil, kerosene and soft coke under the Public Distribution System along with the details of allocation made to each State during the current year so far, month-wise;

(b) whether the demand has been fully met;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the actual take off of the allocated foodgrains by each State Government during the the said period, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). Allocation of commodities under PDS is made to the States/UTs based on past demands, offtake trends, relative need and other relevant factors. Additional demands received from time to time from the States/UTs are considered and allocations are made on the above basis, keeping simultaneously in view the need to maintain a buffer stock at the prescribed norms.

Allocation of sugar is made to the States/UTs every month on the basis of 425 grms per capita as per 1991 population. Besides, an additional quota of one lakh tonnes per annum is also released to States/UTs as festival quota which is allocated in the month of their choice in proportion to their monthly levy quota. In view of the better availability of sugar, the festival quota has been doubled for the calendar year 1996 as also adhoc increase to the tune of 10% in the monthly levy quota of all States/UTs for the month of December, 1996 has been granted and release orders issued accordingly.

As regards kerosene, an attempt is now being made to bring those States/UTs where the per capita availability is less than national average, to the national average level. At present only 60% of the required quantity of kerosene is indigenously produced and the balance is imported.

As regards edible oil, whenever the prices of this item rise sharply in the market, Central Government imports oil like palmolein through STC and allots it to the States/UTs for distribution under PDS.

In so far as soft coke is concerned, allocation to the State Governments is made from out of the stocks held by the Public Sector Coke companies.

Information relating to monthwise and Statewise allocation and offtake during the year 1996 of wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil, kerosene and soft coke is in the Statements I, II, III, IV, V and VI respectively.